(c) what is the special focus and thrust followed by a necessary package given on those States to curb and control HIV/AIDS;

(d) whether it is a fact that the real situation of these cases in other States are under-reported; and

(e) what is the mechanism and reliable device that are ensured to assess the prevalence of HIV/AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):(a) Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu are categorized as high prevalence States.

(b) 89% of total reported cases in 2004 and 71.5% of reported cases in 2005 were from the above 6 States.

(c) In order to control the spread of HIV/AIDS in the country, NACO is focusing on up-scaling the targeted intervention approach among high risk population groups, mass awareness for behaviour change particularly among youth and women, expanding care, support and treatment for opportunistic infections, free antiretroviral therapy and mainstreaming the HIV interventions strategies.

(d) There is under reporting of AIDS cases as these cases present to the hospitals with variety of opportunistic infection and people may not be aware of their HIV status.

(e) Annual sentinel surveillance is carried out to monitor the trends as well as to find the prevalence of HIV infection in different population groups. This year 434 sites have been added to the existing 750 sentinel sites.

Institutional bias against HIV Positive people

2333. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about several cases of institutional bias against HIV positive people in the country, including instances of Government schools and offices preventing HIV people from studying and working there;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any action in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government support non-discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS in schools and at workplace. The policy laid down is that no mandatory HIV testing should be imposed as pre-condition for providing employment (except Armed Forces) school education or for providing health care. Guidelines have been issued to all State AIDS Control Societies to ensure that there is no discrimination to HIV positive patients attending Government hospitals in the State for treatment purposes.

Procurement of Tami Flu Drug

2334. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tami Flu, an anti Bird Flu drug was procured by Government from a multinational drug company to deal with human infection of Bird Flu;

(b) if so, the quantity of drugs procured, the quantity of drugs utilized for preventing human infection and the quantity of stocks still unutilized;

(c) whether any incidence of human infection was reported;

(d) if not, the rationale of Government for keeping huge stockpiling of Tami Flu procured from multinational drug company at a higher cost; and

(e) the details of the loss to the exchequer due to the purchase of anti Bird Flu drugs by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has procured 3,00,000 capsules of Tami